



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,876	10/26/2001	Darrell C. Conklin	97-63C1	8340

7590

07/05/2005

Jennifer K. Johnson, J.D.  
Patent Department, ZymoGenetics, Inc.  
1201 Eastlake Avenue East  
Seattle, WA 98102

EXAMINER

BASI, NIRMAL SINGH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1646

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/039,876

Applicant(s)

CONKLIN ET AL.

Examiner

Nirmal S. Basi

Art Unit

1646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 32,33 and 35-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 22-31 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restriction***

1. Applicant's election of Group I, Claims 22-31 and 34 on 4/4/05, is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP 818.03(a)). Claims 32-33 and 35-40 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

2. The drawings objected to because each Figure must be described separately in the Brief Description of the Drawings. The Figure must be labeled as Figure 1 and must be described in the Brief Description of the Drawings as Figure 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The drawings are objected to because the "Figure" must be labeled as Figure 1. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional

Art Unit: 1646

replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. Specification, page 88 discloses the wrong address for the ATCC. The address for the ATCC has recently changed, and that the new address should appear in the specification. The new address is:

American Type Culture Collection

10801 University Boulevard

Manassas, VA 201 10-2209

5. The specification should be reviewed for improper recitation of hyperlinks. For example see pages 73 and 86. All such recitations should be deleted or amended such that the hyperlinks are rendered inactive. See MPEP 608.01.

### **Claim Rejection, 35 U.S.C. 112**

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 1646

6. Claims 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 22 and 27 are indefinite because it is not clear what polynucleotide sequence is contained on 21q22.3 region of human chromosome 21 to which the isolated polynucleotide hybridizes. The metes and bounds of the claim are determined by said sequence and without such the metes and bounds of the claim to be determined. It is suggested the 21q22.3 region of human chromosome 21 be identified by SEQ ID NO: to overcome the rejection.

Claims 23-26 and 28-29 are rejected for depending on an indefinite base claim and failing to resolve the issues raised above.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC 101 and 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 101:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

7. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Art Unit: 1646

Claims 22-31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well established utility.

A specific utility is a utility that is specific to the subject matter claimed, as opposed to a general utility that would be applicable to the broad class of the invention. A "substantial utility" is a utility that defines a "real world" use. Utilities that require or constitute carrying out further research to identify or reasonably confirm a "real world" context of use are not substantial utilities. A "well established utility" is a utility that is well known or immediately apparent, which can be implied by the specification alone, or taken in combination with the knowledge of one skilled in the art. A well established utility must also be specific and substantial as well as credible. Based on the record, there is not a "well established utility" for the claimed invention. The specification has asserted utilities for the specifically claimed invention of claims 22-31 and 34.

The claims are directed to a isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide which is at least 90% identical to the polypeptide disclosed in SEQ ID NO:2, an expression vector containing said polynucleotide and a cell containing said vector.

The specification teaches a polynucleotide (SEQ ID NO:1) encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2. The specification discloses the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 is a novel polypeptide human 2-19 polypeptide homologue (Z219A) belonging to the family of cytokines. Z219A has some sequence similarity to murine EF-7 protein, human 2-19, human D87120 and z219a. The functionality

Art Unit: 1646

of murine EF-7 protein, human 2-19, human D87120 and z219a is not disclosed. Z219A is also shown to expressed in a wide variety of tissues. Z219A is claimed to be useful as modulating agents in regulating a variety of cellular processes, useful for screening assays, detection assays, predictive assays and methods of treatment. However, no disclosure is provided within the instant specification on what specific function a putative Z129A protein possesses, or how to specifically assay for such; nor are any cell types/tissues disclosed that specifically express this protein; nor are any disease states disclosed that are directly related to Z129A dysfunction.

Accordingly, the instant specification provides insufficient guidance on how to use the disclosed Z129A proteins and therefore the nucleic acids of the instant invention, because no function for the Z129A protein is known, or disclosed. Likewise, expression vectors and host cells whose sole function is to make Z129A proteins lack utility for these same reasons. In order to practice the invention one of skill in the art would have to identify proteins and nucleic acids encoding said proteins having Z129A specific activity. However, the specification does not provide a disclosure for identifying said activity. In particular, no assays are described in the specification by which one of ordinary skill in the art could extrapolate as to what constitutes functional characteristics of Z129A polypeptide, except for possessing a motifs 1-5. The significance of motifs 1-5 as it relates structure to function is not disclosed. Therefore, because it is unknown, nor disclosed, what specific ligand/agonist/ antagonist interacts or binds to Z129A, and because cytokines, by definition, possess their own unique

Art Unit: 1646

biological activities/functions and ligands, it would be impossible for the skilled artisan to determine how to use Applicant's invention. It would require undue experimentation to first discover the function/activity of Z129A, as well as what unique ligands interact with Z129A. The divergent actions and specificity of the cytokine is described in the references of Yoon et al, Structure, Vol. 13, pages 551-564, April 2005; Pestka et al, Immunological Reviews, Vol. 202, pages 8-32, 2001; Trinchieri, Immunological Reviews, Vol. 202, pages 5-7, 2001; Chang et al, Leukemia, Vol 17, pages 1263-1293, 2003; and Schein, Current Pharmaceutical Design, Vol. 10, No. 31, pages 3853-3855, 2004. The references show that cytokines are highly divergent in their structure and cellular functions. They require different receptors, have different activity. Structure does not necessarily predict function. For example, Yoon discloses two similar polypeptides vIL-10 and hIL-10 (83% identical) have different effects, i.e. in contrast to hIL-10, vIL-10 is unable to co stimulate thymocyte and mast cell proliferation and does not induce B cell MHC class II expression. Also vIL-10 exhibits a 1000 fold lower affinity for cell surface IL-10R1 than hIL-10 on human cells (page 551, column 2. Peska discloses there are numerous cytokines which interact with numerous receptors and have divergent effects. Schein specifically states "We must know more about cytokines than what region of their surface mediates binding to a specific cell surface protein. Modern drug design demands that we identify the binding partners, cellular environment and even possible substrates of cytokines and growth factors", page 3854. In instant case the surface that mediates binding to a specific cell surface protein, binding partners,



Art Unit: 1646

cellular environment and possible substrates of Z129A are not known. It is not even known which family of cytokines Z129A belongs.

Further, the specification does not teach which particular amino acids are critical for Z129A protein's function that are encoded by these polynucleotides. In other words, such structurally deficient polynucleotides containing random mutations would be expected by the skilled artisan to result in nucleic acid molecules encoding inactive proteins, even if such activity becomes known. A given amino acid will not by any means have the same significance in different peptide sequences, or even in different positions of the same sequence. Therefore, the lack of guidance provided in the specification as to what minimal structural requirements are necessary for Z129A function, if ever discovered, would prevent the skilled artisan from determining whether any modification or mutation to the single disclosed human Z129A DNA molecule could be made which retains the desired function of the instant invention, because any random mutation or modification manifested within a Z129A protein itself would be predicted to adversely alter its biologically active 3-dimensional conformation, without undue experimentation to determine otherwise; especially when no assays to distinguish such functional nucleic acid molecules are known or disclosed.

The utilities asserted by Applicant are not specific or substantial. Since no specific function of the polypeptide of instant invention is known, and the hypothesized function is based entirely on conjecture from homologous polypeptides, the asserted utilities are not specific to the instant polypeptide, but

Art Unit: 1646

rather are based on family attributes. Neither the specification nor the art of record disclose the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or fragments thereof, useful to identify drugs that affect said protein and modulate its activity. Neither the specification nor the art of record disclose the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:1, or fragments thereof, useful to identify drugs that affect the protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule and modulate its activity.

Similarly, neither the specification nor the art of record disclose any instances where disorders can be affected by interfering with the activity using the Z129A or fragments thereof. Thus the corresponding asserted utilities are essentially methods of using Z129A or fragments thereof to identify disease states associated with Z129A dysfunction and as targets for drug discovery. Therefore the asserted utilities are essentially methods of testing for or for potentially treating unspecified, undisclosed diseases or conditions, which does not define a "real world" context of use. Treating or testing for compounds that interact with Z129A polypeptide which may be implicated in an unspecified, undisclosed disease or condition would require or constitute carrying out further research to identify or reasonably confirm a "real world" context of use. Since neither the specification nor the art of record disclose any activities or properties that would constitute a real world context of use for the claimed Z129A and fragments thereof, further experimentation is necessary to attribute a utility to the claimed polynucleotides. See *Brenner v. Manson*, 383 U.S. 519, 535B36, 148 USPQ 689, 696 (1966) (noting that Congress intended that no patent be granted on a chemical compound whose sole utility consists of its potential role

Art Unit: 1646

as an object of use-testing, and stated, in context of the utility requirement, that "a patent is not a hunting license. It is not a reward for the search, but compensation for its successful conclusion.").

The use of the nucleic acids as probes for identifying an individual from a biological sample, forensic identification and tissue identification using the Z129A nucleic acid/protein does not provide a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well established utility, and is discussed below. The basis for identifying an individual from a biological sample is by using restriction fragment length polymorphism and determining individual identification by allelic differences. For the claimed nucleic acid molecule to be used in the manner specified, it must be demonstrated that there is polymorphism present and the knowledge of the structural characteristics of the allelic variants, if they exist. Neither the specification nor the prior art discloses polymorphism (allelic variants) of instant invention. Therefore undue experimentation would be expected by the skilled artisan to isolate allelic variants of the protein of unknown function of instant invention result and use it in the manner suggested. Further, the specification, nor prior art suggests any disease states where the Z129A protein of instant invention is involved. Tissue identification is a general utility applicable to all nucleic acids. All members of the cytokine family may be used for forensic identification, tissue identification, screening of candidate drugs. However, for a utility to be well-established it must be specific, substantial. However, the particulars of screening of candidate drugs, that target claimed Z129A, and in toxicology testing are not disclosed in the instant specification. Neither the

Art Unit: 1646

candidate drugs or toxic substances nor the susceptible organ systems are identified. Therefore, this is a utility, which would apply to virtually every member of a general class of materials, such as any collection of proteins or DNA, but is only potential with respect to SEQ ID NO:1 and fragments thereof. Because of this, such a utility is not specific and does not constitute a well-established utility. Further, because any potential diagnostic utility is not yet known and has not yet been disclosed, the utility is not substantial because it is not currently available in practical form. Moreover, use of the claimed protein for screening compounds that are a target for claimed Z129A is only useful in the sense that the information that is gained from the assay is dependent on the effect it has on the protein, and says nothing with regard to each individual member of the TNFRL family. Again, this is a utility which would apply to virtually every member of a general class of materials, such as any collection of proteins or DNA. Even if the expression of Applicants individual Z129A is affected by a test compound in an assay for drug screening, the specification does not disclose any specific and substantial interpretation for the result, and none is known in the art. Given this consideration, the individually claimed method of using claimed Z129A has no well-established use. The artisan is required to perform further experimentation on the claimed Z129A itself in order to determine to what use any information regarding this protein could be put.

With regard to diagnosis of disease, in order for a polynucleotide or protein to be useful, as asserted, for diagnosis of a disease, there must be a well established or disclosed correlation or relationship between the claimed Z129A

Art Unit: 1646

and a disease or disorder. The presence of claimed Z129A in tissue is not sufficient for establishing a utility in diagnosis of disease in the absence of some information regarding a correlative or causal relationship between the expression of the claimed Z129A and the disease. If a molecule is to be used as a surrogate for a disease state, some disease state must be identified in some way with the molecule. There must be some expression pattern that would allow the claimed Z129A to be used in a diagnostic manner. Many proteins are expressed in normal tissues and diseased tissues. Therefore, one needs to know, e.g., that the claimed Z129A is either present only in, e.g. cancer tissue to the exclusion of normal tissue or is expressed in higher levels in diseased tissue compared to normal tissue (i.e. over expression). Evidence of a differential expression might serve as a basis for use of claimed Z129A as a diagnostic for a disease. However, in the absence of any disclosed relationship between the claimed Z129A and any disease or disorder and the lack of any correlation between the claimed Z129A with any known disease or disorder, any information obtained from an expression profile would only serve as the basis for further research on the observation itself. Congress intended that no patent be granted on a chemical compound whose sole >utility= consists of its potential role as an object of use-testing. *Brenner*, 148 USPQ at 696. The disclosure does not present a substantial utility that would support the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §101.

Further, the cytokine family to which the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1 belongs is a family in which the members have divergent functions based on which tissues the protein is expressed or

Art Unit: 1646

administered to. Assignment to this family does not support an inference of utility because the members are not known to share a common utility. There are some protein families for which assignment of a new protein in that family would convey a specific utility to that protein. For example, some families of enzymes such as proteases, ligases, telomerases, etc. share activities due to the particular specific biochemical characteristics of the members of the protein family such as non-specific substrate requirements, that are reasonably imputed to isolated compositions of any member of the family. The diversity of the cytokine family has already been described. Without some common biological activity for the family members, a new member would not have a specific or substantial utility when relying only on the fact that it has structural similarity to the other family members. The members of the family have different biological activities, which may be related to tissue distribution, but there is no evidence that the claimed compounds share any one of diverse number of activities. That is, no activity is known to be common to all members. To argue that all the members can be used for drug screening, toxicology testing and diagnosis, is to argue a general, nonspecific utility that would apply to virtually every member of the family, contrary to the evidence. Further, any compound could be considered as a regulator or modulator of tissue in that any compound, if administered in the proper amount, will stimulate or inhibit tissue. For example, salt, ethanol, and water are all compounds which will kill cells if administered in a great enough amount, and which would stimulate cells from which these compounds had been withheld, therefore, they could be considered regulators or modulators of tissue.

Art Unit: 1646

However, use of these compounds for the modulation of tissue would not be considered a specific and substantial utility unless there was some disclosure of, for example, a specific and particular combination of compound/composition and application of such in some particular environment of use.

Without knowing a biological significance of the claimed Z129A, one of ordinary skill in the art would not know how to use the claimed invention in its currently available form in a credible real world manner based on the diversity of biological activities possessed by the ion channel family. Contrast *Brenner*, 148 USPQ at 694 (despite similarity with adjacent homologue, there was insufficient likelihood that the steroid would have similar tumor-inhibiting characteristics), with *In re Folkers*, 145 USPQ 390, 393 (CCPA 1965) (some uses can be immediately inferred from a recital of certain properties) or *In re Brana*, 34 USPQ 1436, 1441 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (evidence of success in structurally similar compounds is relevant in determining whether one skilled in the art would believe an asserted utility; here, an implicit assertion of a tumor target was sufficiently specific to satisfy the threshold utility requirement).

The assertion that the claimed invention has utility in drug screening, drug development and disease diagnosis, does not meet the standards for a specific, substantial or well-established utility for reasons set forth above. None of the utilities identified have been demonstrated to be specific to the polypeptide encoded by the claimed nucleic acid. One of ordinary skill in the art must understand how to achieve an immediate and practical benefit from the claimed species based on the knowledge of the class. However, no practical benefit has

Art Unit: 1646

been shown for the use of the polypeptide SEQ ID NO:2 and the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1. The specification has not described the family of Z129A in enough detail to show, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1 and variants and fragments thereof have any substantial use. The record shows that the family of proteins having cytokine domains is diverse, and has such a broad definition, that a common utility cannot be defined. Moreover, the evidence of record is inadequate to determine the disease(s), drug(s) or toxicological screen(s) for which the compounds would be useful. In *Brenner*, the Court approved a rejection for failure to disclose any utility for a compound where the compound was undergoing screening for possible tumor-inhibiting effects and an adjacent homologue of the compound had proven effective. *Brenner*, 148 USPQ at 690. Here, there is no evidence that the claimed isolated compounds have any utility.

As disclosed in the rejection above, it is unknown, nor disclosed, what specific ligand/agonist/ antagonist interacts or binds to Z129A, and because cytokines, by definition, possess their own unique biological activities/functions and ligands, it would be impossible to determine how to use Applicants invention, as described as claimed, without requiring undue experimentation to first discover the function/activity of Z129A, as well as what unique ligands interact with Z129A. The assays and antibodies suggested by applicant only provide tools for further experimentation on the protein and do not identify a specific use for the protein of instant invention.



Art Unit: 1646

For all the above reasons, the disclosure is insufficient to teach one of skill in the art how to use the invention.

The use of the claimed invention for toxicology testing, drug discovery, and disease diagnosis are not substantial utilities. The question at issue is whether or not the broad general assertion that the claimed Z129A might be used for some diagnostic application in the absence of a disclosure of which diagnostic application would be considered to be an assertion of a specific, substantial, and credible utility. For reasons set forth above the disclosure satisfies none of the three criteria See *In re Kirk*, 153 USPQ 48, 53 (CCPA 1967) (quoting the Board of Patent Appeals, "We do not believe that it was the intention of the statutes to require the Patent Office, the courts, or the public to play the sort of guessing game that might be involved if an applicant could satisfy the requirements of the statutes by indicating the usefulness of a claimed compound in terms of possible use so general as to be meaningless and then, after his research or that of his competitors has definitely ascertained an actual use for the compound, adducing evidence intended to show that a particular specific use would have been obvious to men skilled in the particular art to which this use relates".)

The prior rejection under 101 followed *Brenner v. Manson*. In that case, the absence of a demonstrated specific utility for the claimed steroid compound was not ameliorated by the existence of a demonstrated general utility for the class. Unlike *Fujikawa v. Wattanasin*, where there were pharmaceutically acceptable in vitro results, here, there is nothing other than relatively low levels of sequence homology to a broad and diverse family of proteins having distinct modes of

Art Unit: 1646

activity, and no disclosed common mode of action. A rejection under 112, first paragraph, may be affirmed on the same basis as a lack of utility rejection under 101. See, e.g., *In re Swartz*, 56 USPQ2d 1703 (Fed. Cir. 2000); *In re Kirk*, 153 USPQ 48 (CCPA 1967). Further since the claimed Z129A nucleic acid, vectors containing said nucleic acid, cells containing said nucleic acid or said vector has no utility, methods of its use are also rejected for lack of utility.

8. Claims 22-31 and 34 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Specifically, since the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art clearly would not know how to use the claimed invention. Since neither the specification nor the art of record disclose any activities or properties that would constitute a real world context of use for the claimed Z129A nucleic acid, variants thereof, vectors containing said nucleic acid, cells containing said nucleic acid or said vector, methods of its use, further experimentation is necessary to attribute a utility to the claimed nucleic acid encoding Z129A polypeptides and variants thereof.

The claims fail to disclose how to use the claimed invention for the reasons given above (lack of utility). Further the claims are drawn to an orphan Z129A. The claimed nucleic acid encodes an orphan Z129A whose activity, activating ligands and functionality have not been disclosed. Neither the claims nor the specification disclose what specific biological activity is associated with the claimed Z129A. There is no disclosure of the specific compounds that are transported, proteins activated in the signal transduction pathway or what ligand

Art Unit: 1646

is capable of binding to the polypeptide encoded by the claimed polynucleotide, so as to disclose a specific function for the claimed polynucleotide. Therefore nucleic acids encoding unrelated and inactive proteins are encompassed by the claims. The specification does not disclose how to produce active variants or how to use inactive ones. Substitutions that result in active variants are not disclosed. Substitutions that are detrimental to Z129A variant activity are not disclosed. There is no disclosure of how to assay variants since the ligand and function of the claimed invention is unknown.

The complex nature of cytokines (disclosed above) and the unpredictability of assigning a function to Z129A with no known ligand, activity, or function is described in the rejection under 35 USC 101 and 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph.

Specifically, since the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific or substantial asserted utility or a well established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art would not know how to use the claimed invention so that it would operate as intended without undue experimentation.

9. Claims 22-31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The claims are drawn to polynucleotides which hybridize to the 21q22.3 region of human chromosome 21 and polynucleotide comprising specific regions of SEQ ID NO:1 or encoding specific region of SEQ ID NO:2. The claims are also drawn

Art Unit: 1646

to vector comprising said polynucleotide and cell containing said vector. The claims do not require that the polypeptide possess any particular biological activity, nor any particular conserved structure, or other disclosed distinguishing feature. Thus, the claims are drawn to a genus of polynucleotides that is defined only by sequence identity.

To provide evidence of possession of a claimed genus, the specification must provide sufficient distinguishing identifying characteristics of the genus. The factors to be considered include disclosure of complete or partial structure, physical and/or chemical properties, functional characteristics, structure/function correlation, methods of making the claimed product, or any combination thereof. In this case, the only factor present in the claim is a partial structure in the form of a recitation of percent identity. There is not even identification of any particular portion of the structure that must be conserved. Accordingly, in the absence of sufficient recitation of distinguishing identifying characteristics, the specification does not provide adequate written description of the claimed genus. Further the extracellular domains are not defined.

Naming a type of material generically known to exist, in the absence of knowledge as to what that material consists of, is not a description of that material. When one is unable to envision the detailed constitution of a complex chemical compound having a particular function, such as a nucleic acid, so as to distinguish it from other materials, as well as a method for obtaining it, conception has not been achieved until reduction to practice has occurred, i.e., until after the nucleic acid has been isolated. Thus, claiming all DNAs that

Art Unit: 1646

achieve a result without defining what means will do so is not in compliance with the description requirement. Rather, it is an attempt to preempt the future before it has arrived. The claims recite a broad arbitrary structural relationship between the claimed nucleic acid sequences, either in terms of its nucleotide sequence or the polypeptide encoded, and the single disclosed species of nucleotide sequence and amino acid sequence, respectively. The claims are not even directed to a polynucleotides which encode a particular functional protein. Therefore nucleic acids encoding non-functional or functionally unrelated proteins to Z219A are encompassed by the claims. The recited structural relationships are arbitrary since neither the specification nor the prior art discloses any definitive relationship between protein function and % identity or homology at either the nucleotide or amino acid level; and the specification does not describe a single species of nucleic acid that encodes a functional protein that is not either 100% identical to the recited nucleotide sequence or that encodes a polypeptide that is not 100% identical to the recited amino acid sequence.

While one of skill in the art can readily envision numerable species of nucleic acid sequences that are at least a given % identity to a reference nucleotide sequence and that encode a polypeptide at least a given % identity to a recited reference amino acid sequence, one cannot envision which of these also encode a polypeptide with a specific activity of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2. The fact remains that the actual nucleic acid sequences which encode a protein with a particular activity or the actual amino acid sequences of such a protein *cannot* be envisioned any better when the possible choices are narrowed from all

Art Unit: 1646

possible sequences to all possible sequences with an arbitrary structural relationship with a known functional sequence. For example, if one skilled in the art were to make a synthetic nucleotide sequence that encoded a polypeptide with 90% identity to the reference amino acid sequence, he would be no more able to say whether it encoded a functional polypeptide than if the nucleotide sequence encoded a polypeptide that was only 10% identical to the reference polypeptide sequence. Nor would he be able to say whether the sequence existed in nature.

To put the situation in perspective, the number of possible amino acid sequences of 100 amino acids in length is  $20^{100}$  (approx.  $10^{130}$ ) and the number of possible nucleotide sequences of 300 nucleotides in length is  $4^{300}$  (approx.  $4 \times 10^{180}$ ). The number of possible nucleotide or amino acid sequences that are of a given %identity relative to a reference sequence, where all differences between the possible sequences and the reference sequence are substitutions, can be calculated by the following formula:

$$N = XL + X^2L(L-1)/2! + X^3L(L-1)(L-2)/3! + \dots + X^{n-1}L(L-1)(L-2)\dots(L-(n-2))/(n-1)! + L(L-1)(L-2)\dots(L-(n-1))/n!$$

where N is the number of possible sequences, X is the number of different residues that can be substituted for a residue in the reference sequence, L is the length of the reference sequence, n is the maximum number of residues that can be inserted, deleted or substituted relative to the reference sequence at a given % identity. For a nucleotide sequence, X is 3 (alternate nucleotides); for an amino acid sequence, X is 19 (alternate amino acids).

Art Unit: 1646

For a 100 amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to a reference sequence of 100 amino acids, the number of possible sequences having 9 amino acid substitutions relative to the reference (the penultimate term of the formula) is approximately  $6 \times 10^{23}$ . Whereas the number of possible sequences having 10 amino acid substitutions relative to the reference (the final term of the formula) is approximately  $1.1 \times 10^{26}$ . So the last term is approximately equal to N, i.e. the preceding terms contribute little to the total. It can also be shown that N can be approximated by the formula  $X^n L^n / n!$ , where  $n \ll L$ . Using this formula to approximate N in this example gives a value of  $1.7 \times 10^{26}$ . For a 300-nucleotide reference sequence, the number of possible 300 nucleotide sequences that are at least 90% identical to the reference is approximately  $1.6 \times 10^{56}$ .

In the present case, the reference amino acid sequence, SEQ ID NO:2, is 235 amino acids long, and the reference nucleotide sequence, SEQ ID NO:1 is 876 nucleotides long. Using the approximation formula, the number of possible amino acid sequences and nucleotide sequences that are at least e.g. 80% identical to the reference amino acid sequence or nucleotide sequence, would be much larger than  $6 \times 10^{23}$  and  $1.6 \times 10^{56}$ , respectively. While limiting the scope of potential sequences to those that are at least e.g. 80% identical to a reference greatly reduces the number of potential sequences to test, it does not do so in any meaningful way. All of these values greatly exceed the estimated number of atoms in the universe ( $10^{70}$  to  $10^{90}$ ). Thus, limiting the claims by the recited structural relationships merely reduces the degree of impossibility of making and

Art Unit: 1646

testing sequences for those which encode a functional protein encompassed by the claims. Therefore, inclusion of the structural relationships in the claim does not distinguish the instant fact situation from those reviewed in *Amgen*, *Fiers*, and *Regents of the Univ. Calif.*

The specification does not provide any information on what amino acid residues are necessary and sufficient for a functional activity. The specification also provides no teachings on what amino acid sequence modifications, e.g. insertions, deletions and substitutions, would be permissible in an active Z219A polypeptide that would improve or at least would not interfere with the biological activity or structural features necessary for the biological activity and stability of the protein. Since there are no other examples of proteins that have structural homology with SEQ ID NO:2, it is not possible to even guess at the amino acid residues which are critical to its structure or function based on sequence conservation. Therefore one cannot predict variant amino acid sequences for a biologically active polypeptide. Rather one must engage in case to case painstaking experimental study to determine active PRO1885 variants. Consequently, excessive trial and error experimentation would have been required to identify the necessary nucleic acid sequence derivatives encoding a biologically active Z219A with an amino acid sequence differing from SEQ ID NO:2 since the amino acid sequence of such polypeptides could not be predicted.

The specification discloses only one putative amino acid sequences, SEQ ID NO:2, for a polypeptide having the necessary properties for the disclosed



Art Unit: 1646

uses, and provides no guidance on obtaining functional polypeptide variants of SEQ ID NO:2 encoded by SEQ ID NO:1 which would be suitable.

*Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 19USPQ2d 1111 , clearly states that "applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of the invention. The invention is, for purposes of the written description inquiry, whatever is now claimed." (See page 1117.) The specification does not "clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that (he or she) invented what is claimed." (See *Vas-Cath* at page 1116). As discussed above, the skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed chemical structure of the encompassed genus of polynucleotides, and therefore conception is not achieved until reduction to practice has occurred, regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the method of isolation. Adequate written description requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and reference to a potential method of isolating it. The compound itself is required. See *Fiers v. Revel*, 25 USPQ2d 1601 at 1606 (CAFC1993) and *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016.

One cannot describe what one has not conceived. See *Fiddes v. Baird*, 30 USPQ2d 1481 at 1483. In *Fiddes*, claims directed to mammalian FGF'S were found to be unpatentable due to lack of written description for that broad class. The specification provided only the bovine sequence.

Therefore, only isolated polynucleotides encoding polypeptides comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 but not the full breadth of the claims meets the written description provision of 35 U.S.C.112, first paragraph.

Art Unit: 1646

Applicant is reminded that Vas-Cath makes clear that the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. 112 is severable from its enablement provision (see page 1 115).

### ***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

9. Claims 22-31 rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6388064. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they both disclose an isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is at least 90% identical to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2. The claims are also not patentably distinct from each other because they both disclose a vector comprising said polynucleotide comprising operably linked elements and cell comprising said vector isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide the 1 disclosed in a virus particle displaying a heterologous fusion protein on the outer surface thereof. The common feature

Art Unit: 1646


of claim 53 of instant application and claims 11-18 of Patent 5,837,500 is the concept of displaying a chimeric or fusion binding protein on the surface of a genetic package, for example a phage.

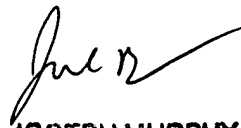
10. No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nirmal S. Basi whose telephone number is 571-272-0868. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony C. Caputa can be reached on 571-272-0829. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Nirmal S. Basi  
Art Unit 1646  
June 27, 2005

  
JOSEPH MURPHY  
PATENT EXAMINER